

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

## AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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### “More Strength to Your Good Right Arm.”

THE RIGHT arm of the farmer is his faithful and efficient work horse. Well may we adopt the spirit of the Hibernian toast and add “more strength to this good right arm.”

In the draft animal, used for pulling plows, cultivators and heavy loads of all kinds, weight is an essential element of strength and usefulness. We are to-day using farm work animals that will average from 150 to 200 pounds greater weight than those of ten years ago, and ten years from now we will be using, or wanting, animals 200 pounds heavier than those in use to-day.

How are we to get these larger animals? We shall probably buy many of them as we have in the past, but so long as we depend on buying our work-stock they will be too few in numbers and of inferior quality. No country ever maintained farm work-stock in sufficient numbers or of high efficiency through purchase. The type of horses bred in a country is the type used. If we use larger horses and mules in the future, as we most certainly shall, then those bred will be larger.

But the breeding of horses requires a large investment and much time. It, therefore, follows that if we increase our breeding, and through our breeding the weight and efficiency of our farm horses, we must do so slowly and at great expense. Whether we breed or buy the expense is the more important matter. As intimated, we believe the expense of buying farm work-stock in sufficient numbers and of needed efficiency is impracticable. It is equally impracticable to buy large numbers of females necessary to breed this work-stock.

But one feasible plan remains, we must buy the smaller number of sires necessary to produce the heavier animals we shall need, when crossed on our native mares.

This is the season when horse breeding receives most attention. The kind of sires needed to breed to our native mares to produce the strong, muscular blocks, weighing 1200 to 1500 pounds, so desirable



A PRIZE-WINNING PERCHERON STALLION.

for doing economical farm work, is well illustrated in the Percheron stallion on this page.

If farm work-stock that will meet the increasing demands for more weight, which alone gives power to pull the larger modern implements is desired, then breed only to stallions of larger size.

Quality is important, but our native mares have that in abundance, and in selecting their mates for breeding it is more important that the weight be obtained, while preserving the quality as far as possible.

We cannot buy our work-stock. Doing so in the past has been our undoing and we cannot buy the mares required to breed the heavier work animals needed; but we can buy the fewer sires needed to increase the size and efficiency of the horses bred.

Let every man who breeds a mare this spring with a view to producing a farm work animal insist on size in the sire—quality and size, but not quality without size.

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